Senate Council
July 20, 2020

The Senate Council met in regular session at 3:00 pm on Monday, July 20, 2020 via video conference. Below is a record of what transpired. All votes were taken via a show of hands unless indicated otherwise. Below is a record of what transpired.

Senate Council Chair Aaron Cramer (EN) called the Senate Council (SC) meeting to order at 3:00 pm. The Chair welcomed those present. He informed everyone that the session was being recorded and asked everyone to use the chat box to sign in for attendance. He provided guidance on how to participate in the discussion.

1. Minutes from May 4, 2020 and Announcements
The Chair reported that no edits were received for the sets of minutes from May 4, 2020. There being **no objections**, the minutes from May 4, 2020 were **approved** as distributed by **unanimous consent**.

The Chair explained that the pricing for online courses for Fall 2020 are capped for full-time students but will remain the same for part-time students.

The Chair reported that the campus wide Dual Reporting Committee has finished their report and sent it to Provost Blackwell. The Chair is also planning to meet with Associate Provost for Academic and Student Affairs Kirsten Turner to go over the results. The two faculty representatives on the committee, Rebecca Freeman (AS) and Kristine Urschel (AG), have reported that they were pleased with the process, but the product did not highly enough value faculty mentorship and advising and perhaps created some disincentive for colleges to retain that model.

The Chair shared that SC was asked to nominate a representative for the Thursday Football Game Committee. Jack Kirn (BE) has agreed to serve in that role.

The Chair shared that he approved two changes on behalf of SC to the 2020-21 Academic Calendar. On June 25th he approved inclusion of dates for the Graduate School and on June 29th he approved date changes related to the K-Week calendar.

The Chair announced that the Senate's UK Core Education Committee is accepting pass/fail grading as transfer credit from other institutions for work done in spring 2020 to fulfill UK Core requirements.

The Chair shared that during a meeting with Provost Blackwell, they discussed the need to streamline the degree list process. An ad-hoc committee is being formed to address the issue and the Chair said he planned to ask a senator to serve on that committee. He asked that any nominations from SC members for the committee be sent to him by tomorrow.

The Chair reminded SC that he was asked to compose an ad-hoc committee to review the Senate's Admissions and Academic Standards Committee (SAASC) charge. They have met once and should have recommendations for SC soon.

The Senate's Advisory Committee on Diversity and Inclusion (SACDI) is reviewing a statement regarding diversity and inclusion that instructors could insert into their syllabi. Once SACDI finishes the vetting, it can be included when the syllabus initiative moves forward in the fall.

2. Statements for Syllabi
a. Classroom Policies on Social Distancing and Masks

The Chair shared the recommended syllabus language related to the COVID-19 response submitted by the Dean of Student's office. He explained that If the recommended language is accepted by SC, it will be added to the syllabus template/website.

The Chair welcomed Dean of Students Nick Kehrwald to share more information about the recommendations. Kehrwald explained that Student and Academic Life (SAL) and Faculty Fellows Corrine Williams (PbH) and Katherine McCormick (ED) explored what institutional-level requirements for healthy behaviors might be needed. They partnered with SC Chair Cramer and a colleague from the Teaching, Learning, and Academic Innovation office about flexibility in the classroom. Director of the Disability Resource Center David Beach was also consulted about accommodations for individuals who are unable to wear a mask. Kehrwald then described the proposed language. The Chair opened the floor for questions.

The floor was opened for questions and comments which included:
- What are the requirements for outside of the classroom environments, like hallways and dining areas? In response, Kehrwald explained that in the Playbook, everyone is required to wear a mask inside and outside of the classroom. Masks should be worn indoors at all times and outdoors when social distancing is not possible.
- What should an instructor do if a student refuses to wear a mask? In response, Kehrwald explained that they are currently working on an engagement script of how to best respond without escalating the situation. The proposed language states that the student will be asked to leave the classroom if they are not wearing a mask and students will need to get prior approval before not wearing a mask.

Bird-Pollan (LA) **moved** to endorse and circulate the recommended syllabus language related to the social distancing and masks. Brion (EN) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate. There was discussion about face shields and other types of face coverings and if the policy should apply to only in-person, face to face instruction. The Chair suggested a friendly amendment to recommend the syllabus language to faculty teaching face-to-face courses. Bird-Pollan and Brion accepted the friendly amendment and there were no objections from other SC members. The Chair asked Kehrwald if he expected any significantly different language to come forward after the SC endorsed its use but Kehrwald did not think there would be. He thought it was likely that an engagement script would be forthcoming and respond to some of the questions that SC members had asked about interacting with students about masks.

There was discussion about terminology regarding masks and shields. After brief discussion, both Bird-Pollan (LA) and Brion (EN) agreed to changing the draft language to instead refer to "mask or University-approved face covering." There was no further discussion. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

b. Classroom Recording Statement
The Chair explained that the classroom recording statement was developed by Associate Provost for Teaching, Learning, and Academic Innovation Kathi Kern and her workstream. Margaret Mohr-Schroeder (ED) who is leading a subcommittee in that workstream and Jennifer Bird-Pollan (LA) were recognized for their contributions in developing the statement. The Chair noted that Charnigo (PbH) had offered some comments about the Statement over the weekend. He then welcomed Kern to further explain the statement.

Kern thanked Charnigo for his thoughtful comments. She, along with Mohr-Schroeder and Bird-Pollan, put the statement together to address faculty and student concerns about recording within classrooms. Kern went over the suggested changes to the statement made to accommodate Charnigo's concerns, by removing the language about recording other students and clarifying that it is fine for the student to use the educational material for other reasonable educational or professional purposes.

Brion **moved** to endorse the classroom recording statement with the language as amended in the meeting for use in syllabi. Andrade (ME) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

3. COVID Ongoing Discussion
a. Changes to Professional Calendars
i. College of Pharmacy
Associate Dean of Academic Programs Frank Romanelli (PH) explained the proposed changes. Andrade (ME) **moved** to approve the proposed College of Pharmacy calendar changes. Collett (HS) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there were questions about fall break and holidays. Wheeler (SGA) read a statement in favor of approving the proposed calendar from Taylor (SGA) who was unable to attend the meeting. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

ii. College of Law
Associate Dean of Academic Affairs Douglas Michael (LA) explained the proposed changes. It was clarified that the final exams would be taken remotely. Charnigo (PbH) **moved** to approve the proposed University of Kentucky J. David Rosenberg College of Law calendar changes. Andrade (ME) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

b. Proposed Nonstandard Course Calendars
i. EMBA Courses
Executive Director of the Professional Resource Center Lorna Patches (BE) explained the proposed calendar. It was clarified that the courses can be moved online later, if needed, due to COVID-19. Brion (EN) **moved** to approve the proposed nonstandard EMBA course calendars. Andrade (ME) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

ii. RSD courses
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Reny de Leeuw (DE) explained the two proposed nonstandard course calendar requests. It was clarified that there would be a Thanksgiving break and Christmas break. Andrade (ME) **moved** to approve the proposed nonstandard RSD calendars. Bird-Pollan (LA) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

iii. PAS Courses
Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Undergraduate Education Karen Badger (HS) explained the proposed nonstandard course calendars for PAS, PT, and CSD courses. Communication Sciences and Disorders Department Chair Anne Olson (HS) and Physical Therapy Department Chair Tony English (HS) also explained more about their respective calendars.

Andrade (ME) **moved** to approve the proposed PAS calendar. Bird-Pollan (LA) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

There was clarification of what measures are being taken to ensure students maintain COVID-19 safety standards.

iv. <u>PT Courses</u>
Andrade (ME) **moved** to approve the proposed PT nonstandard course calendars. Brion (EN) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and it was clarified that there would be a fall break. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

v. <u>CSD Courses</u>
Andrade (ME) **moved** to approve the proposed PAS calendar. DeShana (HS) **seconded**. There were a few questions. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

vi. <u>AAD Courses</u>
Arts Administration Department Chair Rachel Shane (FA) explained the proposed calendar. Charnigo (PbH) **moved** to approve the proposed AAD calendar with the typo of 20220 changed to 2020. Soult (AS) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

c. <u>Definition of Reading Day</u>
The Chair shared that Academic Ombud Kaveh Tagavi asked for the definition of a reading day. Since there is no definition, this should be rectified. He explained that when the ad-hoc Calendar Committee brought forward their proposal last spring, which included the new "reading days," there was a footnote explaining them. Although not yet explicitly stated, the Chair suggested that that definition was what SC had in mind when approving the Academic Calendar for Fall 2020 that included reading days.

There was much discussion including:
- Adding the term to the glossary in the S*enate Rules* (*SRs*).
- Provisional definition for Fall 2020 semester.
- Waiting until the full Senate returns in the fall to discuss any SR amendments.
- If make-up tests and assignments would be allowed during the reading days.

Soult **moved** to accept the Calendar Committee's footnote, as edited during the meeting to remove the first two sentences and the last sentence, as the definition of a "reading day. Brion (EN) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was some, primarily about whether or not to allow make-up tests and assignments to be due on reading days. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

d. <u>Discussion on Attendance Policies - What it Means to Attend</u>
The Chair asked SC to consider if the existing excused absence policy in the *SRs* is adequate for Fall 2020, as it relates to COVID-19. Will students be excused if the COVID safety and wellness app tells a student to stay home? What kind of documentation is needed if a student is sick? A summary of the *SR* language about absences was posted for SC's reference.

There was much discussion including:
- Importance of supporting faculty who are teaching in person.
- Clarification that the Provost's Office is not requiring faculty to teach in multiple modalities.
- If the attendance policy will be in effect for students taking hybrid courses.
- If existing policies for attendance can be used.
- If absences are excused if a student is in quarantine.

Charnigo (PbH) **moved** to interpret the rules that it shall be regarded as an excused absence when a student is directed not to attend class by the University, a medical professional, or a public health professional. Blonder (ME) offered a friendly amendment to replace "not to attend class" with "to self-quarantine". Charnigo accepted the amendment. Blonder (ME) **seconded**.

The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was much discussion, including the need to clarify if the interpretation is meant only for face-to-face instruction for the Fall 2020 semester and if the motion should refer explicitly to the COVID safety and wellness app. Friendly amendments were accepted to describe the motion as an interpretation of the *SRs* regarding "Excused Absences" for the Fall 2020 semester. There was additional editing.

When there was no further discussion, a **vote** was taken on the motion that for the Fall 2020 semester, an absence from a required in-person interaction shall be regarded as excused if the student has been directed to self-quarantine by the University (including its app), a medical professional, public health professional, or government official. The motion **passed** with none opposed.

4. Committee Reports
a. Senate's UK Core Education Committee (SUKCEC) - Patrick Lucas, Chair
i. 2019-20 Report
Report postponed until a later meeting.

5. Discussion on Possibility of Diversity and Inclusivity Requirement for Undergraduates
The Chair explained that there was a proposal for a University-wide diversity requirement when Katherine McCormick (ED) was SC chair. The proposal did not move forward then, but it may be a good time to take another look at it. He suggested sending the proposal to Senate's Advisory Committee on Diversity and Inclusion (SACDI) for their consideration.

Bird-Pollan (LA) **moved** to send the proposal to SACDI for their recommendations. Cantrell (ED) **seconded**. The Chair asked if there was any debate and there was none. A **vote** was taken and the motion **passed** with none opposed.

6. Items from the Floor (Time Permitting)
None.

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 5:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Aaron Cramer,
Senate Council Chair

SC members present: Andrade, Bird-Pollan, Blonder, Brion, Cantrell, Charnigo, Collett, Cramer, Hall, Soult, and Wheeler.

Guests present: Karen Badger, Sheila Brothers, Roger Brown, Reny de Leeuw, Tony English, Bob Grossman, Davy Jones, Nick Kehrwald, Kathi Kern, Janice Kuperstein, Margaret Mohr-Schroeder, Anne Olson, Lorna Patches, Frank Romanelli, Rachel Shane, Kim Taylor, and Annie Davis Weber.

Prepared by Stephanie Woolery on July 23, 2020.